

In re Patent Application

Serial No. 09/219,478

Filed: December 22, 1998

Examiner: Michael Pender

Protest under 37 CFR 1.291

Exhibit F

Letter from L. Keith Stephens to Michael Smialek dated 12/16/1999.



HICKMAN
STEPHENS
COLEMAN

VIA FACSIMILE WITH
CONFIRMATION BY CERTIFIED MAIL

December 2, 1999

Mike Smialek
President
Knowledge Dynamics
835 Laramie Avenue
Glenview, IL 60025

RE: U.S. Patent No. 5,987,443

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

On November 16, 1999, Andersen Consulting was awarded US Patent 5,987,443 ('443 patent) "SYSTEM, METHOD AND ARTICLE OF MANUFACTURE FOR A GOAL BASED EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM." A copy of the '443 patent is enclosed.

We are familiar with Knowledge Dynamics products. It appears to us that these products use inventions claimed by the '443 patent and, consequently, I feel obliged to give you notice of this. Andersen Consulting will be willing to grant nonexclusive licenses to Knowledge Dynamics (and anyone else who needs a license) for future use of the '443 patent. However, my inclination is to contact you again about the best way to resolve this next week, once you have had an opportunity to review your technology and business needs.

In the interim, I would be glad to have you review the '443 patent and, if you believe that Knowledge Dynamics does not need a license, please let us know your reasons. I can be reached at (408) 558-7890. Otherwise, I will get back to you about this as soon as I can.

Very truly yours,

L. Keith Stephens
Hickman Stephens Coleman & Hughes

cc: Vicki St. John